infusion

try opened for settlement.

The commissioner held councils with every tribe whom he visited, and disclosed to them the object of his journey to their country. He found the Indian mind in an unfavorable condition to receive and calmly consider his message. For some time previous to his arrival in the Indian country, individuals from the States had been exploring portions of it, with the intention, as was understood, of attempting to make locations and settlements. The discussion of the subject, and the exploration of the country by citizens of the States, alarmed and excited the Indians. Some of them were proposing a grand council, at which it was designed to light up the old Indian fires, and confederate for defence against the white people, who, they believed, were coming in force to drive them from their country, and to occupy it without their consent, and without consideration. Under such circumstances it was very difficult to quiet the Indians, or divest their minds of an impression that the commissioner's visit was not in some way or other intended to aid the whites in a forcible occupation of the country. As he progressed in his journey, and conferred with the tribes, the difficulty was

gradually removed.

With but few exceptions, the Indians were opposed to selling any part of their lands, as announced in their replies to the speeches of the commissioner. Finally, however, many tribes expressed their willingness to sell, but on the condition that they could retain tribal reservations on their present tracts of land.

This policy was deemed objectionable, and not to be adopted if it could be avoided; and with such tribes the time of treating was deferred until next spring, with the hope that the In-dians by that time might see that their per-manent interests required an entire transfer of all their lands, and their removal to a new home. Some tribes declined to dispose of any portion; and all, with the exception of the Wy andotts and Ottawas, who expressed an opinion on the subject of an organization of a civil government in that territory, were opposed to the measure. They have, with but few exceptions a very crude and unintelligible idea of the "white man's laws," deeming them engines of tyranny and oppression, and they dread as well as fear them. Before the commissioner left the country, quite a change was perceptible among the Indians; and it is believed that, with but few exceptions, the tribes will next spring enter into treaties, and dispose of large portions of their country, and some of them will sell the whole of their land. The idea of retaining reservations, which seemed to be generally entertained, is not deemed to be consistent with their true interests, and every good influence ought to be exercised to enlighten them on the subject. If they dispose of their lands, no reservation should, if it can be avoided, be granted or allowed. There are some Indians in various tribes who are occupying farms, comfortably situated, and who are in such an advanced state of civilization, that if they desired to remain, the privilege might well, and ought perhaps to be granted, and their farms in each case reserved for their homes. Such Indians would be qualified to enjoy the privileges of citizenship. But to make reservations for an entire tribe on the tract which it now owns, would, it is believed, be injurious to the future peace, prosperity, and advancement of these people. The commisadvancement of these people. The commis sioner, as far as he judged it prudent, endeav ored to enlighten them on this point, and la bored to convince them that it was not consis tent with the true interest of themselves and their posterity that they should have tribal reservations within their present limits.

The condition of the Indians located

of Missouri and Iowa is not as prosperous, or official reports annually received from that part of the country would authorize us to expect. In several tribes are to be found some educated, intelligent men; and many are able, by the cultivation of the earth, to subsist them selves. Among these classes there are some sincere professors of religion; but the mass of the Indians are indolent and intemperate, and many of them are degraded and debased.

The transplanting of these Indians and the

dedication of their present country to their use, and for their future home, was an emanation of the purest benevolence and the dictate of Tast sums of money pended by the government for the sustenance, comfort, and civilization of these unfortunate people, and the missionary has occupied that field of labor long and faithfully; but, notwithstanding all that has been done by the government and good men, the experiment has mea-surably failed. Located generally on large tracts of lands, separated into small and distinct bands, roaming at will and wandering in idleness, the these tribes are in a degraded state, with no hope of a considerable degree of re-formation, (even with such improvements as are practicable in their present management,) without a change of residence. Their opinsent an almost insurmountable obstacle to their ions, habits, customs, and pursuits, which change from a primitive state, find now but and the efforts of the teacher and divine, are counteracted, to a very great extent, by influences of an adverse character, and which it is presumed will predominate so long as these Indians are permitted to remain where they

The acquisition of Texas, New Mexico, and our Pacific possessions, and the vast annual emigration which passes through the Indian country and over the Indian reservations, on its journey thither, and which was not anticipated at the time the Indians were located there, render it absolutely necessary that they be placed out of the paths of the emigrants as far as practicable. The interests of both re-quire it. In the present condition of the Indian, no good results to him from his contact with the emigrant; while the latter is always embarrassed on his journey and frequently in jured by the presence of the former.

Except the Wyandotts and Ottowas, who

have a few simple laws, all the Indian tribes north of the Cherokee line are without any prescribed form of government. The inter act, it is believed, extends no protection to the emigrants; and this adventurous and valuable class of our people is therefore unprotected while in the Indian country. This state of things ought not to exist. The intercourse act, if amended, and its provisions extended to them, would still be inefficient, if not a dead letter, by reason of the great distance of the United States officers in the States from the Indian country. In my judgment, the interests of the Indians require that a civil government be immediately organized in the territory. The executive of the territory discharging, by virtue of his office, the duties of superintendent of Indian affairs, and having a direct oversight of the Indian service there, would exercise a happy influence, not only on the border tribes, but, a brief space of time on the Indians of the

In the annual report of the 30th November, 1848, the then Commissioner of Indian Affairs suggested the policy of procuring and keeping open portions of the lands west of Missouri and Iowa, for the egress and expansion of our own population; and the same measure has been urged in several successive annual reports The necessity of opening an ample western out-The necessity of opening an ample western out-let for our rapidly increasing population seems to have been clearly foreseen by this depart-ment. The negotiations with the Indians who will have to be disturbed, and the arrangements necessary for their peaceful and comfortable re-location, requiring time and deliberation, it is to be regretted that the authority and means for the accomplishment of the object were not given more in advance of the exigency which has occurred, and which appears to require pro-ceedings of a more precipitate character than should have been permitted to become neces-

Objections may be urged to the organization

civil government be established, and the coun- of a civil government in the Indian country: but those that cannot be overcome are not to be compared to the advantages which will flow punishment.

I deem it incumbent upon me to eall parto the Indians from such a measure, with trea-ties to conform to the new order of things, and

prising and hardy pioneers who are ready to occupy it, and by their energies speedily found a State, the beneficial influences of which, from ts position, would be of incalculable advantage

to the Indian, as well as the government and people of the United States.

It is respectfully suggested that the sum of money appropriated by Congress at the last session is not deemed adequate, in view of the extent and magnitude of the objects contem-plated; and it is recommended that a further appropriation be made early in the next session for the purpose of treating with the tribes indi-cated by the law of the last session, and an extension of that authority, so that treaties, if deemed necessary, either to supply the emigrated tribes with new homes, or otherwise, may be made with the other Indians in what is known as Nebraska. These treaties can, it is believed, all be made in the months of April and May next, and submitted to the Senate in ample time for Congress to establish a civil

government at its next session.

As stated in the last annual report, the ne gotiations with the Camanches, Kioways, and ther Indians on the Arkansas river, contemplated by an act passed at the preceding session of Congress, had necessarily to be post-poned till the present season. At a suitable period last spring they were confided to the agent in that quarter. He was also charged with the duty of procuring, from such of the Indians of his agency as were parties to the treaty of Fort Laramie, their assent to the amendment made to that treaty by the Senate whereby the supplies of goods, provisions, and other articles of necessity, originally agreed to be furnished them annually for a period of fifty, were limited to the shorter term of ten years. The act of the 3d of March last, making the appropriation for the second of these in-stalments, provided that the same should not be paid to the Indians until they had assented be paid to the Indians until they had assented to the Senate's amendment; and the agent was instructed accordingly. The report of this officer, herewith transmitted, evidences the satisfactory manner in which he has dis-charged the important duties confided to him in this connexion, and as containing highly valuable information touching our relations with the prairie and mountain tribes, and grave suggestions relative to our future policy in reference to them, commends itself to the attention and consideration of all who may take an interest in the future of this unfortunate class of our Indian population.

There is but a single agent for all the Indi-

ans of the Upper Arkansas and Platte rivers, and the immense region lying between them and between our frontier tribes and the Rocky mountains. From the great extent of this agency, the numerous Indians within it, and he extreme distance between the larger bodies of them, it is wholly beyond the power of one person to manage, whatever may be his quali-fications. The Indians of the Arkansas, con-sisting of the northern Camanches, Kioways, others, are numerous, mischievously in clined, and infest the direct route to Santa Fe.
Their intercourse with the Indians of New
Mexico is of decidedly evil tendency; and they
either take part in the annual predatory expeditions into the frontier provinces of the Mexi can republic, or are, to a considerable extent the agents and instruments through which those engaged in these lawless forays dispose of their ill-gotten plunder. For the purpose of exercising some degree of influence over, and, as far as possible, controlling them, a separate agent, located in their vicinity, is indispensably agent, located in their vicinity, is indispensably necessary. For like reasons, and for the better protection of our overland emigrants to California and Oregon, a separate agent is likewise required for the Indians on the upper waters of the Platte river. I therefore respectfully renew the recommendation of a former Commissioner of Indian Affairs, that this agency be divided

and another agent appointed.

Several topics of interest connected with the semi-civilized tribes of the southern superinnev are deserv ing the past summer several of them, but more particularly the Cherokees and Creeks, sent delegates to attend a general council, concerted among themselves, to be held with the Ca-manches and other wild tribes of the prairies; the object of which was to compromise appre-hended difficulties likely to arise out of depredations and other outrages committed by the latter, and to come to some agreement for the establishment of peaceful relations between them in future. It was the intention of the more enlightened tribes to seize this opportu-nity of endeavoring to make a salutary impres-sion upon their wilder brethren, by fully repre-senting to them their relations to the United States, our power to chastise and punish them for their aggressions, and the consequent ne cessity of their remaining peaceable and friend ly, as well with our citizens as with other tribes. High waters and other unfavorable circum stances preventing a full attendance from the various tribes expected to be represented, the neeting proved too insignicant to justify an expectation of any very flattering results; yet the excellent motive by which our border tribes were actuated that participated in this movenent entitles them to the commendation of the overnment. A general council of this kind nd for like objects, under the immediate aus pices and patronage of the government, is highly desirable, and I respectfully recommend an application to Congress for a small appro-priation for the purpose.

The Cherokees, desirous of multiplying their

already numerous schools, and thus to diffuse more widely and more rapidly the blessings of education, and anxions to discharge themselves of an onerous public debt—in part contracted it is believed, for the above object—manifested a desire, in order to obtain means for those commendable purposes, to retroceed to the go vernment the tract of eight hundred thousand acres of land, added to their former posses sions by the treaty of New Echota; but the de sions by the treaty of New Echota; but the de-legation from the tribe, after several interviews with the department last spring, withdrew the proposition. It is supposed, however, that it will be renewed during the approaching winter. Thistract, which projects north along the western boundary of Missouri, lies detached from their country, and has not been settled by them. It is not probable that they will ever have use for it, their other lands being ample for all their

ourposes.

Intelligence has recently been received of a most dastardly and inhuman outrage perpe-trated in the Cherokee nation; Andrew and Washington Adair, peaceable and unoffending citizens of the nation, having been deliberately and brutally murdered in cold blood by an armed mob of Cherokees, about one hundred in number. It having been reported that these lawless persons, reinforced by others, meditated still further acts of violence and bloodshed, which it was feared the authorities of the nation, unaided, could not prevent, there ap-peared to be imminent danger of a state of "domestic strife," requiring the interposition of the strong arm of the government, in confor-mity with the provisions of the 6th article of the treaty of 1835—'36 with the tribe. As a measure of precaution, it was therefore deemed proper to request that the military force on that frontier be placed subject to the requisition of the superintendent of Indian Affairs there, to be employed, if requisite, in protecting the lives and property of Cherokees that might be in danger, and preventing the further effusion of blood. There being, however, no disposition of interference, unnecessarily, in the domestic affairs of the Cherokees, it is hoped there will be no occasion for such a proceeding; and that the authorities of the tribe will be

able to prevent further outrage, and to bring

ties to conform to the new order of things, and suitable laws for their protection.

In addition to this, the preparation of a large district of that country for settlement, by the removal of the Indians, would open up, in a most desirable locality, homes for the entermost district of the locality, homes for the entermost district of the locality, homes for the entermost district of the law prohibiting the introduction or sale of ardent spirits in the Indian country; a question which has recently caused great excitement among the Creeks, and may lead to serious difficulty. This, and the other semi-civilized tribes on that frontie within his superintendancy, have adopted strin within his superintendancy, have adopted stringent laws upon the subject, which are regularly and rigidly enforced against their own people guilty of the offence; while, according to judicial interpretation in that quarter, they are also amenable under our law. Thus, an Indian, though he may have been severely punished by his tribe for introducing or disposing of liquor, is liable to arrest and punishment a second time for the same offence—a result cond time for the same offence-a result ertainly contrary to the spirit of our institu tions, and as repugnant to the Indian as it would be to ourselves. It is one to which the Creeks appear determined not to submit. In-dividuals of their nation, seized by the United States marshal last summer, were rescued by them; and a second effort of that officer to arrest these persons has led to great excite-ment. A considerable number have banded together, and armed themselves to resist the attempt at all hazards; and in case of failure they threaten the lives of those of their chiefs who have been instrumental and active in the doption and enforcement of their own law The superintendant deeming it prudent to in terpose for the stay of further proceedings until the views of the department could be ob ained, the subject was recently submitted for

North Pacific and Behring's Straits' Surveying Expedition.

The annexed letter, addressed to the honorable Secretary of the Navy, has been politely furnished as for publication.—Washington Union.

United States ship Vincennes,
Simon's Bay, Oct. 15, 1853.

Sir: In order that the department may understand the duties which will occupy the attention of the expedition during its progress, I have the honor to submit outlines of the proposed plan of operations after leaving this place. To render more clear the proposed movements, I have caused to be prepared a sketch illustrating the routes and field of labor. The East Indies offer to commerce certain accessible routes and channels of approach which may be availed of according to seasons.

The northeast monsoons prevail from October to March. Ships approaching from the west, via Cape of Good Hope, must, to avoid these adverse winds, seek the imperfectly surveyed eastern routes, in contradistinction to those through the China seas, so direct in the season of the southwest monsoon. Several of these routes offer themselves, and it is a part of my duty to make reconnoissance of all, in order to develop the resources of each. Since the commencement of the recent active trade by our commerce with Australia, a new question of importance has presented itself. I refer to the probable route from the Australian ports to China, to the east of New Holland, and perhaps through some of the various groups of islands known as the New Hebrides. New Briand perhaps through some of the various group of islands known as the New Hebrides, New Bri

of islands known as the New Hebrides, New Britania, New Guinea, thence up by the Caroline, Pellew, and Phillippine isles, to Canton.

Fully sensible of the necessity of rendering every assistance and facility to our commerce with the east, and in view of the new impulse given to it by the remarkable events alluded to as occurring in Australia, I am of the opinion that my true course is to explore the heretofore unfrequented route from Australia to China. In connection with it—and while an active and efficient portion of the squadron, well adapted to the service, is diligently employed in a careful reconnoissance of the usual and much frequented seas and straits leading to China, adverted to in my preceding remarks, but which, even at this advanced state of hydrographic knowledge, are yet known to conmarks, but which, even at this advanced state of hydrographic knowledge, are yet known to contain inaccuracies which often prove fatal to our ships navigating them—Lieutenant Maury called my attention, and first directed me, to the consideration of this important subject.

Circumstances, and some intercourse with intelligent men engaged in this new enterprise, have since confirmed the strong impression made upon my mind by that intelligent and persevering officer.

To extend the usefulness of the expedition, To extend the usefulness of the expedition, and have decided thus to divide the expedition, and thoroughly develop the new route, while all the investigations necessary to an early and safe navigation of the East Indies, and ordinary courses are well examined and explored. To this end, I

In the accomplishment of this important inves tigation and reconnoissance I shall confine mysel strictly to practical and useful ends. The objec strictly to practical and useful ends. The object of our enterprising navigators is to have, without delay, a comparatively safe and practicable route explored, by which they may pass quickly from Australian ports to those of the Celestial empire. A survey of some sections of the supposed routes—for instance, the intricate and much obstructed strait of Dampier, formed by New Guinea and New Britania—I deem unnecessary. Modern navigators confirm the experience of early researches with respect to the impractica-

early researches with respect to the impractica-bility of the last-named portions of the route. From the information before me, I would not be justified in bestowing valuable time upon that which most likely would prove unavailing. I shall, therefore, devote myself diligently to the examinaion of two or three routes, formed by the great chain of islands lying between the meridians of 150 degrees and 170 degrees east longitude, in the 150 degrees and 170 degrees east longitude, in the hope my results, when presented to the department, may prove worthy, and a safeguard and protection to such of our citizens as shall pass, on their enterprising and lawful occasions, over our track. It will be my duty to conciliate the tribes of natives I may communicate with having pro-vided ample presents suitable to a liberal distri-bution among them. It is also my intention, so heir facilities with reference to commercial pur

oses and as points of refuge.

Portions of the Pacific ocean which will come rorions of the racine ocean which will come under my notice have proved to be successful fisheries for our whale ships, and have recently been much frequented. Advantages, it is hoped, will be secured by the reconnoissance for this portion of our active citizens. I shall not fail to look tion of our active citizens. I shall not fail to look closely to their interests in this respect. If I should succeed in the accomplishment of this, our first important work—and I doubt it not—I shall have secured advantages sufficient to prove the usefulness of the expedition. I embark upon the service with confidence, and expected to despatch from Macao, on my arrival there, carefully drawn charts embared in all the necessary information. drawn charts, embracing all the necessary infor-mation, and in a state for immediate publication. My calculations are upon the supposition that this duty will occupy a space of time not exceeding

inety days.

I am, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
CADWALADER RINGOLD,
Com'g Exp'n to North Pacific Ocean, &c. Sec. of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

Bound for Pittsburgh.—On Friday night last when the Cincinnati train for Clevelaud was near Iberia, a man, suffering under an attack of dele-rium tremens, was discovered naked in the ladies car, he having stripped off all his clothing. The cur, he having stripped off all his clothing. The conductor was remonstrating with him, when, suddenly shouting—"I'm bound for Pittsburgh," he sprung out of the door, and off the platform. The train, which was running at the rate of thirty miles an hour, was checked, and run slowly back to pick up the body of the dead man, who was discovered some two miles back, dancing upon the track. The rear car struck him, and it was supposed that he was crushed, bur he was found clinging to the platform and the brake—unhurt. He was taken into a car, but, again shouting—"I'm bound for Pittsburgh," sprang off, and this time eluded pursuit.

The present season has been the health-st known in California since the discovery of old within her borders. There is very little gold within her borders. There is very ckness in any portion of the State. first of November, the weather throughout the State was clear and pleasant, and there was no prospect of the early commencement of the ainy season.

A. M. Ballow, who, it will be remen bered, was convicted a few months since, at New Orleans, of the terrible murder of a beau-tiful young woman, his mistress, named Eliza been sentenced to the state prison

## Congressional.

THIRTY-THIRD CONGRESS. FIRST SESSION.

In Senate—Thursday, December 22, 1853. On motion by Mr. BADGER, ordered, that when the Senate adjourn to-morrow, it adjourn till Tuesday.

A number of petitions were presented.

RESOLUTIONS.

Mr. MASON submitted the following resolu-

Mr. MASON submitted the following resolution, which was agreed to:

Resolved, That a select committee be appointed to take
into consideration the several resolutions and orders of the
senate providing for the appointment and prescribing the
duties of its officers, to report rules and regulations fixing
the number of such officers and their subordinates, classifying them, and fixing their compensation, prescribing
the mode of appointment and dismissal from office, and
effecting such organization generally as better to insure
their responsibility and efficiency. The committee to consist of three members, to be appointed by the Chair.

Mr. CASS.

Mr. CASS submitted the following resolution Resolved, That the Committee on Pensions be instructed to inquire into the expediency of granting a pension to the widow of Captain Gunnison, late of the army, and recently tilled by the Indians in Utah, while in the performance of

Mr. SUMNER submitted the following resolu ion which was considered and agreed to.

Kesoived, That the Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads, be directed to consider the expediency of providing for the convenience and security of remittances abroad in small sums, by authorizing orders or drafts from our post offices on foreign post offices with which it is in correspondence constituting a system of international post office orders.

Mr. SHIELDS submitted the following resolu ion which was agreed to.

Resolved, That the Committee on the Judiciary be intructed to inquire into the expediency of dividing the state of Illinois into two judicial districts.

SALARIES OF CLERKS. Mr. BRIGHT introduced a bill amendatory of the 3d section of the act making appropriations for the civil and diplomatic expenses of the govern-ment for the year ending the 30th of June, 1854, which was read and referred to the Committee on

Finance.
This bill proposes to increase the salary of the first class clerks (now \$900 each) to 1,200 per annum.

Mr. SLIDELL introduced a bill granting land to the State of Florida, to aid in the construction of a railroad in that State.

TELEGRAPH TO THE PACIFIC. Mr. HAMLIN introduced a bill to establish a line of telegraph from the Mississippi river to the Pacific ocean; which was referred to the Comnittee on Territories.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL.

The Senate then resumed the consideration the joint resolution authorizing the President confer the title of lieutenant general by brevet f minent services.
Messrs. SHIELDS, MASON, BADGER, CASS

Messrs. SHIELDS, MASON, BADGER, CASS, and SEWARD supported the resolution, and Messrs. PETTIT, WALKER, ADAMS, and DOUG LAS, opposed it.

And then the joint resolution was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, by the following

engrossed for a third reading, by the Solvester vote:

YEAS—Messrs. Allen, Atchison, Badger, Bayard, Benjamin, Brodhead, Cass, Clavton, Dawson, Dixon. Dodge, of Wisconsin, Dodge, of Iowa, Evans, Fish, Foot, Gwin, James, Jones, of Tennessee, Mason, Pearce, Pratt, Sebastian, Seward, Shields, Stuart, Thompson, of Kentucky, Thomson, of New Jersey, Wade, Weller, and Wright

—30.

NAYS—Messrs. Adams, Bright, Chase, Clay, Douglas, Fitzpatrick, Hamlin, Norris, Slidell, Sumner, Walker, and Williams—12.

It was then read a third time and passed. After a short executive sess

DELEGATE FROM NEBRASKA.

Mr. HENN presented the credentials of H. D. Johnson, delegate from Nebraska; which were referred to the Committee on Elections. MAIL STEAM SERVICE.

The SPEAKER laid before the House a com-nunication from the Postmaster General, enclos ing the estimates for the mail steam service for the ensuing fiscal year. Referred to the Commit-tee of Ways and Means.

BOUNTY LANDS. Mr. COBB introduced a bill giving further time for satisfying claims for bounty lands and for other purposes; which was referred to the Committee on Public Lands.

PAY OF ARMY OFFICERS.

On motion of Mr. HOUSTON, a resolution wa adopted, instructing the Committee on Military
Affairs to inquire into the expediency of modifying the laws fixing pay and allowances to officers
of the army, as to give compensation in money per sary for their subsistence, abolishing longevity ra-tions, together with all other extra allowances and also into the propriety of so modifying the existing laws, that brevet appointments shall in no ase increase the compensation.

NAVY YARDS-MARINE HOSPITALS-THE MARINE CORPS. On motion of Mr. HOUSTON, a resolution wa On motion of Mr. HOUSTON, a resolution was adopted, instructing the Committee on Naval Affairs to inquire into the expediency of abolishing such of the navy yards and marine hospitals as can be dispensed with, consistent with the public interests, and curtail the annual expenses of those retained, and to abolish all extra allowances and rations of the officers of the marine corps.

PRENCH SPOLIATIONS. Mr. DISNEY introduced a bill providing for in-demnity to certain American citizens for spolia-tions by the French prior to 1801. Referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

NEBRASKA. Mr. MILLER, of Missouri, introduced a bill to organize the Territory of Nebraska; which was eferred to the Committee on Territories.

CLAIM AGENTS. Mr. WENTWORH, of Illinois, offered the fol-

Resolved, That the Committee on Rules be instructed to inquire into the expediency of providing, by rule, for the equalization of the privileges of claim agents in Congress, so as to saint all persons within the bar of the House who may be claim agents, or else to exclude the privilege from persons who may be engaged in lobbying for claims; the object being to give no one claim agent advantages over another within the bar of the House. Mr. BAYLY said the subject was now before he committee. Being opposed to "this piece of Buncombe," he moved that the resolution be laid

ipon the table.

The motion was disagreed to, and the resolution

CALIFORNIA.

Mr. LATHAM introduced a bill authorizing Mr. LATHAM introduced a bill authorizing and directing certain moneys to be paid to California, collected in the ports of said State since the ratification of the treaty of peace with Mexico, and prior to the admission of that State into the Union. Referred to the Committee of Ways and Means.

A large number of other bills were introduced and referred, and several resolutions adopted.

PRESIDENT'S MESSACE The House resolved itself into a Committe of the Whole on the state of the Union—Mr. On in the chair—and resumed the consideration of the resolutions proposing to refer to the appropriate committees the several branches of the Presi-

ent's message.
Mr. WRIGHT, of Pennsylvania, said that the Mr. WRIGHT, of Pennsylvania, said that the opening debate, at the commencement of this session, had taken a somewhat unusual turn. He did not think that the country was at all prepared to anticipate such a result. He was one of those who believed that, after the great contest which the country had passed through—when both of the great political parties of the nation came together in honorable warfare, and when the great battle was fought and the victory won—abolitionism was dead and buried. But day before yesterday, he gentleman from New York, (Mr. Smith,) had exhumed its lifeless body, and dragged it before the House and the country.

He did not propose to enter into a discussion of the abstract question of slavery, the subject having already been dissected by wiser persons than himself, until there was not a limb left to its body but what was mutilated; and at this time the gentleman from New York, with all his eloquence and power, cannot resuscitate its putrid form and disgusting body.

power, cannot resuscitate its putrid form and disgusting body.

He then quoted that portion of Mr. Smirn's speech in which he said that "America is far greater and guiltier oppressor than Austria, and that, indeed, Austrian despotism, as compared with the despotism which classes men, women, and children with cattle, is as his little finger compared with the loins." He could not restrain his feelings, in view of such an assertion, and proceeded to recapitulate instances of Austrian despotism, dark in contrast with the freedom enjoyed in this country; saying that the gentleman from New York had endeavored to cast a firebrand into the country, and to degrade the land of his birth

by accusing it of a worse despotism than that

by accusing it of a worse despotism than that of any power on the European continent.

He alluded to other parts of the speech of Mr. Shith; and, in the course of his remarks, expressed his aurprise that the gentleman could put his hand on the Holy Evangely and swear to support the Constitution, entertaining, as he did, principles, "the higher law," which he claimed to be superior to the obligation to support the Constitution, which contained the following provision:

"No person held to service or labor in one State under the laws thereof, escaping into another, shall, in consequence of any law or regulation therein, be discharged from said service or labor, but shall be delivered up on the claim of the party to whom such service or labor may be due."

whom such service or labor may be due."

Mr. GERRIT SMITH (by permission of Mr.
WRIGHT) said the gentleman had read to him that Mr. GERRIT SMITH (by permission of Mr. Wright) said the gentleman had read to him that part of the Constitution which speaks of persons escaping from service, and wished him to feel that that part of the Constitution refers to slaves. Now, he was not disposed to take any position which shall stigmatize with hypocrisy the framers of the Constitution. A few days before the close of the session of the convention which framed the Constitution, the committee on style reported that "servitude" be stricken out, because it identified the condition of "slave;" and that "service" be inserted, because it identified the condition of freemen. The motion prevailed unanimously; and he repeated he was not disposed to stigmatize with hypocrisy the framers of that paper. He repeated the word "service" refers to freemen, and not to slaves.

Mr. WRIGHT. That is not my recollection of the proceedings in the convention.

and not to slaves.

Mr. WRIGHT. That is not my recollection of the proceedings in the convention.

Mr. SMITH. I refer to the Madison papers.

Mr. WRIGHT resuming, insisted that the constitutional clause which he had quoted refers to slaves as well as to other descriptions of persons, and so the courts have decided. He replied to other portions of Mr. Smyrn's speech; and in conclusion, spoke on the subject of the mode of appointment of the Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, which the bill from the Senate requires shall be confirmed by that body. He gave his reasons for desiring that this requirement take place "hereafter," and not now, for, in the last, it might be construed into a vote of censure.

Mr. BAYLY, of Virginia, said that, the other day, when the bill from the Senate came before the House, requiring the appointment of the Assistant Secretary of the Treasury to be confirmed by the Senate, he expressed the opinion that the Constitution requires officers of that grade to undergo that supervision.

A French philosopher and poet of great distinction—he had forgotten his name—never felt complimented at all if any laudatory reference was made to his writings; but he was always exceedingly gratified if any one complimented him on his dancing. In other words, in the capacity in which he was most deficient he was most vain; and that might be his (Mr. BAYLY's) position in respect to the Constitution. He did flatter himself on his understanding of the Constitution, and, like the French philosopher, he was vain of his dancing.

So it was; he could not help it; and when he

on his understanding of the Constitution, and, like the French philosopher, he was vain of his dancing.

So it was; he could not help it; and when he did make a point, and gentlemen laughed at him, he did feel a little sensitive. And now he was going to vindicate his dancing.

He then proceeded to argue in favor of his position, that the Assistant Secretary of the Treasury should be confirmed by the Senate; and, in conclusion, alluded to words which were ringing in his ears about "opposing the administration," and "the President's policy;" words which had been freely made use of to him when he arrived in Washington, and when he had been interrogated on the subject of speaker, clerk, and other officers. In answer to the speech of Mr. Wensworth, he said that he would tell him that the President does not regard all gentlemen who may choose to vote according to their sense of propriety for speaker, clerk, or librarian, as altogether an administration matter; and he doubted the authority of the gentleman to speak for the administration. He denied his commission to speak for the President. The gentleman is a usurper, assuming authority not conferred upon him. But he did not care whether the gentleman had the authority or not. The points which he (Mr. B.) had made, were before the House and the country.

Mr. PHILLIPS of Alahama obtained the foor ore the House and the country.

Mr. PHILLIPS, of Alabama, obtained the floor

Particulars of the Riot and Murder at La

Salle.—On the 15th December a terrible excitement occurred at La Salle, Illinois. For some days it would appear that the mer working on the Illinois Central Railroad had beer very much excited; on the 15th the outbreak be-

About 2 o'clock, P. M., one of the hands violent About 20 clock, P. M., one of the names violently demanded of the contractor, Story, his wages;
they were refused. The men seized him, drew
him from his store to the barn, when Story snatched his revolver and struck him down. A body of
Irishmen now came. Story was knocked down,
and his brains beaten out; his body was then brought forward and crushed to pieces by large stones. The men were in the fury of a drunken revel. They seemed to gloat over the horrible re-Salle, but the laborers gathered in the town, and assumed a threatening attitude. But at Ottawa the authorities armed, and the Sheild's Guards turned out to protect life and property, and before night, a pretty thorough organization was perfected. The shouts of the mobites were terrific—no yells fight, a provided in the mobites were terrine—no years of savages could be more so; the sheriff, however, succeeded on the 16th in capturing some of them about midnight. The Chicago

ever, succeeded on the 16th in capturing some thirty-two of them about midnight. The Chicago Tribune says:

They found the corps of Mr. Story in a stable, shot, and his head and face mangled in a most shocking manner. One other had been shot. Story, in his defence, had fired several times, wounding one Irishman, but not fatally. They fired on the sherift's party when they came up, but without effect.

ut without effect. The fire was teturned by some of Capt. Fisher' The fire was returned by some of Capt. Fisher's company, and it is supposed one man was killed and another wounded. Some resistance was made by individuals when they were being disarmed, and one got his head pretty badly hurt by a blow from a rifle. It was supposed that the principle leaders had gone south. A locomotive has been sent after

hem.

The court is now in session, and the case will be laid before the special grand jury without delay
The last report from La Salle, up to the 17th, re The last report from La Salle, up to the 17th, report all quiet there. When two companies, Capt. Fisher's and the Shields Guards had reached Story's House, a large number of the laborers fled to a groggery near by; these were pursued and a part captured. Over one hundred and fifty rioters were secured. One fellow fought desperately. The Chicago Tribune says:

A shot in the arm was not enough to cool his blood; he fought desperately with the but of his

A shot in the arm was not enough to cool his blood; he fought desperately with the but of his gun, but, finally, he was brought down by a blow from a similar weapon. Many at first showed resistance, and threatened blood, but the sight of so many white belts and glistening bayonets considerably cooled their courage. Many weapons, chiefly old shot guns, were found concealed. The man who was first shot by Story is still living, but is not expected to recover. The fellow that fired on the company is recognised as the leader of a former affray of a similar character Story was found where he was killed, an inquest held, and the body taken to La Salle. I have just seen it, and a more horrible sight cannot be conceived. His head and norrible sight cannot be conceived. His bead and ace appear to have been hacked to pieces with spades, and then flattened, as with a heavy weight.

spades, and then flattened, as with a heavy weight. The Guards are just starting for home.

When Story was first attacked he had two revolvers. He barricaded himself in his store; when forced from thence, he took refuge in his house and barricaded that; then he sent to Ottowa for help taking another recognize from the contract of the sent to Ottowa. and barricaded that; then he sent to Ottowa for help, taking another revolver from one of his fore-fnen. He said, however, that, if possible, he should shed no more blood. The mob then began to cut his house down, when he fied to the barn and was butchered.

Mr. Story's initials are A. J. He is a tall, well-built and rewards leave and I.

Mr. Story's initials are A. J. He is a tall, well-built, and powerful man, and, I am told, noted for the coolness of his manner. His family were removed by friends, but it is not known where they were taken to. Several of the clerks were threatened, and had to conceal themselves for several hours, as the mob surrounded the house and swore their death. They, however, managed to escape. It is said that last night, before the Guards reached the spot, Mr. Story's safe was broken open, and \$5,000 stolen by the mob.

Outrage.—A man named Sullivan was assailed by a band of ruffians at Detroit, on Monday night last, who beat him and robbed him, and then threw him into a well forty feet deep, where he remained until morning, when he was taken out alive, but was so nearly exhausted that it was at first thought he could never succeed. e could never recover.

Pennal Hendrick, convicted at Raleigh, North Carolina, for passing counterfeit gold coin, has been fined twenty-five hundred dollars, and sen-enced to hard labor for ten years.

A gentleman, in Danbury, Conn., invented a ball, which is so constructed, that when discharged from the cannon or rifle, and strikes its mark, it explodes and does a second execution with a charge of shot, contained within the ball.

Washington Sentinel.

WM. M. OVERTON, CH. MAURICE SMITH, AND BEVERLEY TUCKER. CITY OF WASHINGTON.

**DECEMBER 23. 1853.** 

Mr. E. K. Lundy, bookseller, Bridge street Georgetown, will act as agent for the Scattnel in receiving subscriptions and advertisements.

ngent to receive subscriptions and advertisem in Washington, Georgetown and Alexandria.

In the Senate, yesterday, after considerabl debate, the joint resolution authorizing the President to confer the title of lieutenant general by brevet on General Scott, for eminent ser vices, was passed—yeas 30, nays 12.

In the House of Representatives, a large

number of bills were introduced, and appropriately referred; among them, one providing ndemnity to American citizens for French

The President's annual message was consid ered in Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, and Messrs. Wright, of Pa., and Bayly, of Va., participated in the debate.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER OF

We commence the publication of this exce lent report to-day. The subject treated of possesses interest to the statesman, the historian, the philanthropist, and the philosopher. We purpose making this report and its suggestions the subject of an editorial, as soon as we can command the time to bestow upon it.

COALITION.

The Washington Union has transferred ttacks upon us and upon the Senate from its ditorial columns to its outside pages. It shrinks from the contest it provoked in a moment of spleen and disappointed avarice; but eing without the manliness for an open war, in its retreat, it discharges Parthian arrows by copying the articles of its freesoil associates

Two days ago the Union copied from the Martinsburg Republican an article whose paternity we are sure we could trace to this city. The Washington Union also published, two days ago, an article from the Ohio Statesman journal steeped to its very lips in freesoilism in which this sentence appears-"the demo cratic Senators who voted with whig and abolition Senators to defeat the Union and bolster up its antagonist, the Sentinel, have struck s nocracy of the country will hold them to a roublesome accountability."

The Washington Union having published the oregoing insulting and menacing remarks, we have no choice but to call the public attention to its unmanly course. If that journal mean to say what the Ohio Statesman said, why did it not come out boldly? Why did it hide its head like a frightened ostrich? Why did it copy from the Ohio Statesman words which it lared not use itself?

And yesterday the Washington Union crowds its outside page with imputations against us, which it did not have the boldness to place in its editorial columns. It contents itself editorially with a long stupid article on Cube, which a few may read, with an execration on their folly for having read it. But its outside page is devoted chiefly to the coalition which is falsely charged against us.

word "coalition' from the vocabulary of the Union, and we mean to make that promise good. We have already given significant indications of the real features of the compact and coalition by which the Washington Union obtained the printing of the last Congress Now, we will be more specific.

We are somewhat surprised that the Union should repeat its accusation of a coalition in the face of the uncontradicted statements which we have already made. But, perhaps, our editorials may have escaped the dull attention of the Union; and we, therefore, repeat and recapitulate. If the Union is bent on war, we will not be the first to cry "hold-enough." Denying, most emphatically, for ourselve

and for the democratic senators who sustained us, the imputations of the Union, we defy, now that journal to deny the charge which is made against it, and which it has never yet contradicted. But let us be accurate, so that there may be no mistake.

It was well understood here, about two year.

ago, that the late printer, Mr. Boyd Hamilton and taken the contract for congressional printing at ruinous rates, and could not live up to his con tract stipulations. The joint printing commit tee found it necessary to exercise the powe vested in them, to remedy this evil. It was a question with them whom they should employ to do the work that Mr. Hamillton could not do. The Union wanted it, very naturally and thought it hard that a democratic joint committee - standing four democrats to two whigs-could not give it to the democratic organ. But the Union was at that time a an anti-compromise man on the printing committee, so that the committee stood, with horns locked, three to three. Nothing could be done. Without the votes of the whigh members, or one of them, the Union could not stir a peg. So the committee compromised the matter, and agreed to give the Senate printing to the Republic, and the House printing to the Union, and those establishments entered into the necessary contracts, and gave the ne cessary bonds in the premises.

All these things were perfectly notorious a the time, and were the subjects of comment and was a public matter, and it would have been affectation in the contracting parties to pretend to conceal it.

But there was some want of movement in which it became necessary to get rid of the contract of the Joint Printing Committee with Gideon & Co. Long negotiations ensued, we are informed, in which it is said that members of Congress mediated, and which were finally concluded through the agency of a distinguished democratic lawyer, acting as the mutual friend of all the parties, and the re-

pository of the final agreement by which

These facts were all understood at the time. When the printing bill was before the Senate some objection was made to its passage, growing out of this very contract of Gideon & Co.; and a distinguished democratic Senator suggested, sotto voce, that satisfactory arrangements had been made with the parties to that contract, and it had been surrendered to the printing committee and cancelled.

We are now alluding only to facts, with regard to which there can be no concealment, and which ought to be perfectly well known, both in the House of Representatives and in the Senate. Here we charge was a coalition on the part of the Union with the Republic to divide the public printing, and a coalition that estops it from having anything to say about COALITIONS.

Here we make a period. We do not say that the Union carried out its agreement. We do not accuse it of ever paying one dollar, or one dime to Gideon & Co. on the strength of it. The story is current, by telegraph, that the Union came a figure over them, resembling what it designates, in one of its editorials yesterday morning, as a "Yankee dodge." We hope not. From the position which the Union claims to hold, it would follow that any such "dodge" would become, ipso facto, a part of the Baltimore platform, and of the policy of the administration; and not to acquiesce in it would be "treason to the democratic party." We hope, therefore, that the Union has faced the music, and that there is no truth in the rumors which are abroad to the contrary.

## IMPROVEMENT - OLD AND NEW A struggle has for some few years been

going on in the world between new and old ideas between things established and things proposed to be established. Indeed, such a struggle has always, at every period of history, taken place between the passing and the incoming age. When men get old, they look back, rather than forward. What though the past is the sepulchre of hopes once indulged, of affections once cherished, it is alike the store-house of the trophies of war, ambition, and love. The past has been so full of disappointments. too, that they grow distrustful of the future. It ceases to have the power to charm. It is different with the young, the lively, the sanguine. Their past has been brief; its disappointments, and the impressions made by them, transient. To the future they look. Year by year they grow-their forms expand, their height increases, and they catch new views and new obplow at the administration for which the de-nocracy of the country will hold them to a habits—habits of thought, of feeling and action. They take them up in the morning, as they take up their garments. They love them as they love old fashions. The older they grow, the fonder they become of old ideas and old habits; for their minds and their affections revert to childhood, endeared to them as it is by its innocent pastimes, its young recollections, and its rising aspirations. They begin at length to think with the wine-bibber, that nothing is good that is not old-that colwebs are far more sacred than the broom that sweeps them away.

Far be it from us to disturb the pastimes of childhood or the innocent illusions of age. We would deem it merilegious, wantomy and profanely to embitter the sources of human hap-

It is with nations as it is with individuals. What has been done they would not undo. so potential and so palpable, that they defy resistance, strike alike the old man and the old nation, and they sacrifice the hoary errors and prejudices of the past, to the new and imposing truths that burst upon them.

We have seen this illustrated in science, in art, in every department of human knowledge and human industry. We have also seen marked illustrations of it in government. What were despotisms once, have become constitutional monarchies: what were constitutional monarchies, have become republics. The infusion into the mind of new ideas, new thoughts, new facts, will bring about change-change for the better. The mind of man is expansive and progressive, and all its developments lead to mprovement - individual, social, political. Then let us not hug too fondly to our hearts old ideas and habits, that would interfere with our own happiness and the happiness of mankind. At the same time, however, let us remember that there is a law of limit, and that no principle, however correct or proper, can be pushed to extremes with impunity. The bow may be bent, but, bent too much, it breaks.

Whatever is useful, whatever conduces to the greatest good of the greatest number, should be respected, whether it comes up to us from the remote past, or is the young suggestion of the present moment.

We are happy to perceive that our country men generally, and that our rulers are properly mpressed with the necessity of improvement Not insane, run-mad progress-but right and reasonable improvement. In the reports of most of the heads of departments, we are thorough compromise journal, and there was happy to recognise the evidences of a proper sympathy with, and appreciation of, the ideas of the age. For instance, the reports of the heads of the Navy and War Departments. As practical men, as active men, as well-judging men, they have examined into the interests of the departments to which they have been called, and they recommend improvements that there can be no dispute about. Every improvement involves change, and they have had the good sense to repudiate old stereotyped fogvish errors, prejudices, and abuses. Every improvement involves expense, although it carries along with it real economy, and they have had debate in the House of Representatives. It the good sense and the manliness to recommend such appropriations for the public service as they deemed necessary and proper. Timid men would have dreaded the clamors that unscrupulous politicians and base demagogues he machinery, and a special committee was raise whenever any proposition is made to draw appointed to look after the matter, of which on the public treasury. They, however, acted Mr. HUMPHREY MARSHALL, a whig, was the only from a sense of duty, and, we doubt not, chairman. Then a state of things arose in would despise any clamors that such men might get up against them. We think that the improvements recommended by the Secretary of War are full of promises of usefulness and benefit to the country. We think that the appropriations for which he asks are necessary

and proper. We are glad to see, from the action already taken in the committees of both Houses of Con-